

THE
CARMENS
REMONSTRANCE,

OR A
Reply to the false and scurrilous
Papers of the WOODMONGERS,
by them put out against the
CARMEN:

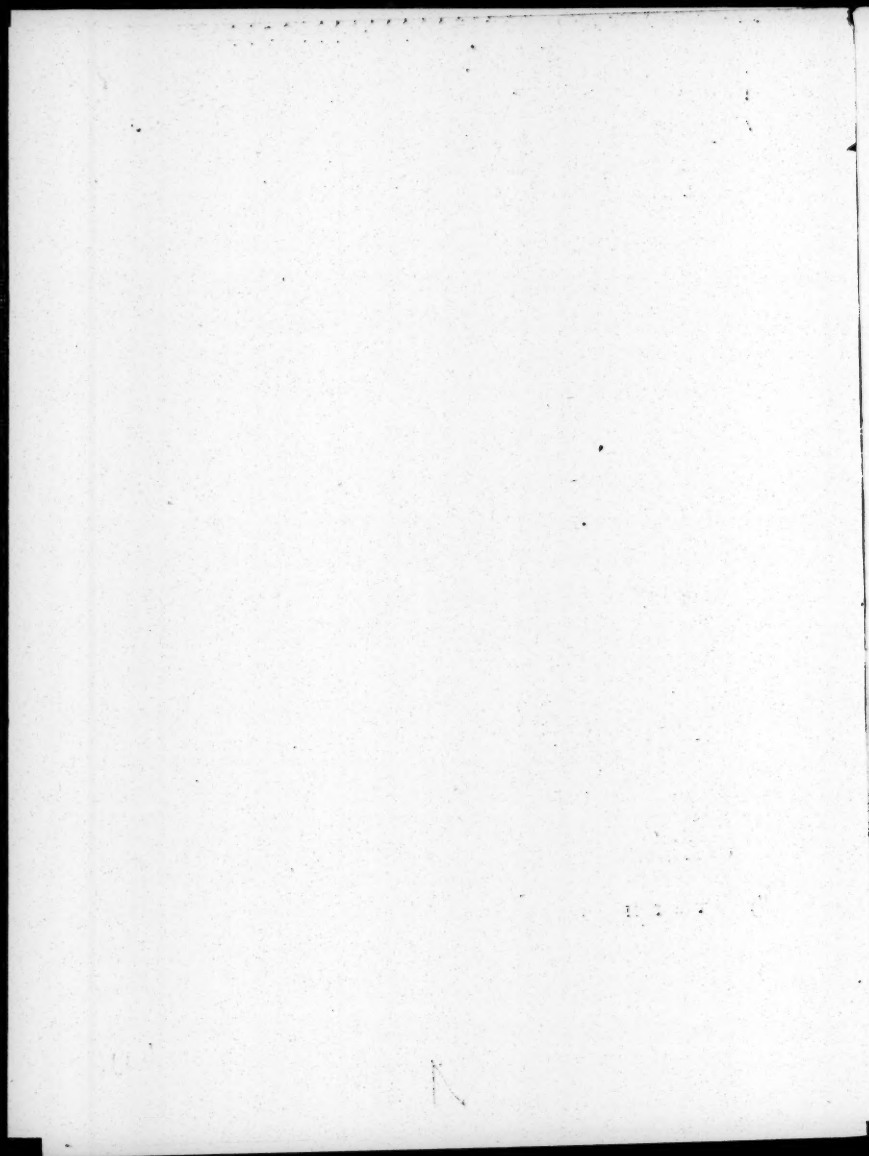
IN A
Way of opposing them in getting of their
Charter, and Vindication of the Carmens in-
tentions against the Scandal of the
WOODMONGERS.

Directed to the Right Honourable,
ALEXANDER GARLAND Esquire, and
the rest of the Committee of Parliament
Who heard the businessse between the
Woodmongers and the Carmens.

And likewise to the Lord Mayor and Court
of Aldermen of the City of London.

By STEPHEN SPRATT Solicitor for
the Carmens.

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TO THE
RIGHT HONORABLE,
Alexander Garland, Esquire,

And the rest of the Committee appointed
by Parliament for hearing the controverſie
between the Carmen and Wood-
mongers of *London, &c.*

And to the Right Honorable, the Lord Major,
and Court of Aldermen of the Citie of
L O N D O N,

*Grace, Mercy, and Peace be multiplied, unto you from God
the Father, and from our Lord Jeſus Chriſt.*

RIGHT HONORABLE,



IN this following Treatiſe
you will partly finde the
confeſt between the Car-
men of *LONDON, &c.* and
the Woodmongers of the
ſame, &c. I am confident,
that you of the Commit-
tee above mentioned, are
very ſenſible of the wil-
lingneſs, and great care of this (our happy, bleſ-
ſed, and worthy renowned Parliament, in gi-
ving

The Epistle Deansatory.



ving such speedy care to the cries of the poor Carmen, and how quickly they were pleased to read their Petition when it was first presented; for which the Carmen have a treble duty upon them towards the Parliament: And your care in meeting at the Committee, as soon as the Petition was referred, to examine the matter on both sides, was so much, that the Carmen, their poore Wives and Children, are ever bound to be thankfull, and to honour and serve you for ever. I doubt not but you are sensible of the great oppressions the Carmen lay under, by their being governed by the Woodmongers: And I beleeve your Honours were well satisfied with the proof of the same.

And I doubt not but you the Lord Major and Aldermen of the Citie of LONDON doe very well know what wrong the Woodmongers have done the Carmen. And no doubt but you would have relieved them to the utmost of your power, had the Carmen come with their petition: But I advised them, that nothing could perfectly and perpetually relieve them from their oppressions, but to be severed from the Woodmongers company, and to be incorporate in one Body by themselves, by Charter under the great Seale of England, which you had no power to grant: and therefore they petitioned the Parliirment, in whose power it is to grant the same. The matter hath been fully heard, and received many debates: The Woodmongers have been heard at large what they could say, and Mr. Recorder was heard what he could say

The Report Delivered.
say on behalf of the Citie, as he can well report to you. Mr. Recorder can report to you what horrible and unjust things were proved against the Woodmongers in point of measure of coales, and how the good people of the Citie are cheated, although the Woodmongers in a scandalous paper delivered lately to the members of Parliament, did basely scandalize and calumniate the Committee, saying, they would not heare them vindicate themselves. Truly you may very well beleieve that those who so openly and impudently will scandalize a Committee of Parliament, will very easily abuse the Carmen, who they have made their slaves so long time. But it is well known that the Woodmongers were heard, and heard again, three dayes one after another, and had nothing to say; but all their desire was to delay time, and to weary out the Carmen, as the Committee very well knows. And now they as much endeavour to retard the Committee from making their Report to the House: And all is, because they would weary out the Carmen, and continue their usurped authority over them, and to get as many Rent-dayes past as they can: to get in the Car-rents, that so they may goe to Law with the Carmen with their owne money, and most they have now to say is by way of prediction, how the Carmen will abuse the Citie, and abuse Merchants, &c. when I know to the contrary: For the Carmen have from time to time in their meetings declared against the rudenesse of some of their Apprentices and Journey-men, and are resolved whensoever the Government is put
into

The Epistle Dedicatory.

WILLOUGHBY
LONDON

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The Report Quarterly.
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into

into their hands, to remedy any abuse whatsoever,
which the Woodmongers never took care to doe.

Now there is nothing wanting but the report
to be made, and the Act passed: I beg for Gods
sake, and Justice sake, that you the Committee will
be pleased to hasten the same, and that you the
Lord Major, and Aldermen of *London*, will be-
come Advocates to the Parliament, on behalfe of
the poore Car-men, by declaring your willing-
nesse in petitioning to the Parliament, that they
will be pleased speedily to grant the Car-mens de-
sires, before they be utterly ruined by the Wood-
mongers, that there may be no more leading into
catpivirie, nor no complaining in your streets.

And he, who is bound in dutie to pray for your
health and prosperitie, will ever remaine,

Your humble,

and faithfull Servant,

STEPHEN SPRAY.



The CARMENS Reply to the
WOODMONGERS Answer to the CAR-
MENS Petition, which the *Woodmongers*
call, *A Scandalous Paper*, &c.



The Woodmongers say, The Car-
men proved not any one Article
against them before the Commit-
tee, as a Corporation: Nor that
they did not erre from the Go-
vernment put into their Hands.
But that which the Carmen sup-
posed to be proved, was deceit
against some particular men in
their measure of Coales; which did much take with the
Committee: And being out of the Verge of their reference,
those particular men were not suffered to answer any thing
in their own vindication.

Reply. That all the Articles exhibited by the Carmen,
were proved against the Woodmongers, which was the
ground of the resolution of the Committee, viz. That the
Carmen should be severed from the Company of Wood-
mongers, and be a Corporation by themselves distinct from
the Woodmongers.

Reply. That a Corporation is invisible, titular, or nominal, and so cannot erre: But the members of a Corporation may erre, and so did the members of the Company of Woodmongers, as it was proved before the Committee; and the capitall errors were these, *viz.*

The taking away of the Estates of poore men, widowes, and children, (to wit) Car-rooms, which they purchased with their money at deare rates. The taking away of which Rooms, hath been the cause of the starving to death many poor fatherless children, &c.

Reply. That they have and doe erre from the government put into their hands, for that their Charter doth not give them power to take away any Car-rooms from any man, who hath, or ever did purchase the same; nor from the widowes or children of any Carman, nor to abuse the Citie with false measures,

The Woodmongers say, *That a Car-room is nothing but a Brand, or Licence set on the side of a Cart, to know the number limited, being 400.*

Reply. They say true in that, and thereby the Carmen know their Right: And if any others should set up Carts, and marke them with that Brand, or mark, then the Carmen doe know themselves to be wronged, & their labour to be taken from them. And if any Carres be set on work with the Mark or Brand on the side of it, and doe exceed the number of foure hundred; then the Citie is abused, and the Carmen robbed of their labour: But the Woodmongers did, and doe still allow above forty Carts to worke more then the number of foure hundred with the Mark or Brand on the side thereof, &c. And by allowing of these Carts above the number of foure hundred, they get at least three hundred pounds a yeare: but the Lord knowes what they doe with the money; and what is become of the Stock of the Hall, no man but themselves can tell, albeit their books testifie that the Revennue of their Company is 800. pound *per annum*, and all raised out of the poore Carmens labour: and the Hospitall goe unpaid their Rent, at Midsummer last

ago. pounds in arreare, which the Carmen would stown to suffer, were they but once incorporate by themselves.

I I. The Woodmongers say in their Answer, That Car-
licences, or Car-rooms, and Carmen, were time out of mind,
in the rule and disposition of the Citie, who did from time to
time, set down orders for their Government, and the Citie
quiet: And the Carmen themselves petitioned to be under
the Woodmongers government, and to be incorporate with
them, by reason they were not capable to govern themselves;
and the ordering of them was by Act of Common-councill,
committed to the Woodmongers, who did condioion with the
Citie to pay to Christs Hospitall ^a 150. l. per annum for their
poores reliefe.

^a By what
authority.

Reply. The Carmen doe not endeavour to be from un-
der the Rule of the Citie, but to be from under the rule
of the Company of Woodmongers, and to be under the
Rulc, prescription, and protection of the Lord Major, and
Court of Aldermen (were they but incorporate by them-
selves, as other Compancis are) and to pay to the Citie the
hundred and fifty pounds per annum more faithfully then the
Woodmongers have done. And to stand to, and abide such
Orders and by Lawes (for their good government and just
dealings with Merchants and others of the Citie) as by
consent of the Judges of the Land, and consent of the Lord
Major and Court of Aldermen they shall make.

Reply. And whereas the Woodmongers in their answer
say, That the Carmen did petition to be incorporate with
them. Whether this be true, or false, it is no great matter,
(but the Carmen say, It is false) and that the Woodmongers
did onely use the Carmens name in their Petition (without
their consents) to King James in the first year of his Reigne,
meerly to set a grace upon their Petition, to procure their
Charter, or else they had never gotten it. But suppose the
Carmen did petition to be under the Woodmongers Go-
vernment, yet not so under them as never to come to be
Masters, nor beare rule in the Company; as now the Wood-
mongers deny to suffer them: neither can it be thought,

that the Carmen ever intended so to loose their birth-
Rights, as to serve a Prentiship in *London* for a Freedome
(as they have done) and never to beare rule in their Com-
pany, but, to live as slaves to the Woodmongers. Besides,
it is very probable, that the Woodmongers in those dayes
were honest men: And therefore the Carmen might well
petition to be incorporate with them; both Parties at that
time being but a small body; but now the multitude both of
Carmen and Woodmongers arising to a great body; and the
Woodmongers still incroaching and intrenching upon the
Carmens priviledge. They may, and doe see more reason
to petition to be severed from the Woodmongers, then
ever they did to be joyned with them; and therefore the
Woodmongers allegation in that, is vain and foolish.

Again, The Woodmongers say, *The Carmen were not
capable to governe themselves.* For reply to that, Whether
this be a scandall to the Carmen in those dayes, is not worth
disputing. But if they were not capable in those dayes to
governe themselves; yet that is no argument that the Car-
men of these dayes are not capable to governe themselves,
for few of these were Carmen in those dayes. Besides, in
these later ages all men grow wiser and wiser, and so doe
the Carmen. Yet further for reply, Why the Carmen
should not be as capable of Government as the Wood-
mongers are, let the World judge? Or why the Carmen
were not so able to governe when they were incorporate,
first, let Reason speake? What were the Woodmongers in
those dayes, when the Corporation was granted? A few
poore petty fellows, that bought Coles and Wood, and
sould them again, and were so few in number, whilst they
lived meerly by honesty, that in the third yeare of King
James, when their Charter was granted, they were forced
to take out ten men out of the Company of Farriers to make
them a Company. Now let Reason speake, Why may not
a Carman be as capable of Government as a Farrier? Now
the world may see what brave Blades these Woodmon-
gers were, that make such brags of their excellency in Go-
vernment

vernment. Cast your eyes a little upon the Woodmongers of these times, and behold what Gallant Race, or Stock they come on. Some of them made Canvis Slops for Seamen, some are Brewers, and some were Coblers, &c. And when they were so neare crackt they could hardly hold together, then for lucre of the Car-rooms, which they knew they should have power to take from poor Men, Widowes, and fatherlesse Children, (their Roomes being worth 50, or 60. pounds apeece,) they turned their Copies and came to be Woodmongers. Now let Reason be the Judge once more, Why may not the honest Carmen of these times be as capable of Govern ment as a Slop-maker, a Brewer, or a Cobler? &c

One word by way of Argument: *Why not the Carmen to be a Company incorporate by their selvs, as well as the Woodmongers, Porters, Watermen, and Tankard-bearers, &c. Are these people so able to governe above the Car-men?* O but the reason why the Wood-mongers doe so much oppose the Car-men, in getting of their Charter, is because of the Car-rooms, O the sweet Car-rooms; four hundred of them (saith the Woodmongers) that paid unto us 17^l. 4^d. per annum, and 1^l. 6^d. quartridge, and 20^s. every turne over, and 20^s. a peece admittance, besides 20^s. upon every Car-roume, taxed by us, when, and as often as we please, besides 3^l. per weeke for so many as we pleased to scale above the number of four hundred, out of which we have feasted our Bellies with many a fat Capon, and with other good cheere, whilst many of the poor Widowes of our Company, and fatherlesse children hith perished for want of bread, whose Car-rooms we used to take away at our pleasure. (Oh) these naughty Car-men will be divided from us, and then our Glory will lye amongst our Coales: O when the Car-rooms be gone, what shall we doe for a Hall-Stock to give and lend one to another; to goe downe the River, and foretell the Market, and to keep up the combination amongst us, to the intollerable abuse of the Citty and parts adjacent, in keeping

keeping up the price of Coales. O come, lets Buffle, and perswade the Parliament-men to keepe up our Interest, though it be never so much to their dishonour. Now the reasons are discovered why the Wood-mongers doe keepe such a buffling, to keep the Car-men from getting a Charter: But the Carmen doe know, and beleeve, that this Honourable Parliament, for whom they have so often ventured their lives, (and never fought against, as the Wood-mongers have done) will doe them Justice, and Relieve them from their oppressions, in despite of all gain-sayers.

I I I. The Wood-mongers say, the Car-mens desires in making Car-licenses hereditary, to be bought and sold, is uncustomary, illegall, and against equitie, to the ruine of thousand Families of poore Carmen, for present and future, that are never able to purchase a Car-roome at those deare rates which then will be, the said Car-rooms alwayes having been, and now are given as Favours to Deserving, Honest (b) Car-men, that served their Apprenticeships, (c) and dismiss from dishonest and unruly men, as President (d) for above a hundred years.

(b) Thats none of the Wood mongers.

(c) Thats more than the Master of the Wood-mongers ever did.

(d) A good President, for a Freeman of London to loose his calling at the pleasure of a Woodmonger.

For Reply: First, the Car-rooms, which the Wood-mongers call Car-licenses, are, and ought to be a Chattel, and to descend to the Executor, or Administrator, when a Car-man dies: (the Reasons;) First, because of the set number, they must be foure hundred, and no more, saith the Law of the Citie: Now these four hundred Car-rooms, being formerly settled upon foure hundred Carmen, by purchase, or descent, are their proper Goods; for it is supposed there be 1000 Car-men, yet the number of 400 carts must not be exceeded. So then no Car-man can set up a cart, unlesse he hath a Car-roome, and cannot have a Roome, unlesse he buy it of some other Car-man, and it must be of the foresaid number, this is one Reason why it is a Chattell; it may properly be called a Chattell annexed to a Free Hold, because it hath no determination, but goes to the Heirs, the Executor, Administrator, or Assignes, as the Testator please.

Secondly,

(72)
Secondly, in regard of the Rent, the City is the Lord of the Fee, or chief Lord of the Car-rooms, and the Car-men are Tenants, and pay a quit Rent, that is, one hundred and fifty pounds a year.

Thirdly : *The Woodmongers say it is unnecessary.* For Reply, it was, and is a custom elder than the Woodmongers Charter, as hath been already proved, and the Woodmongers doe very well know, that their Hall-bookes doe manifest, that Car-rooms were commonly bought and sold betweene man and man, as ordinary as any other commodity; yea, the Woodmongers well know, that Car-rooms were pawned and mortgaged for mony, and accounted as good security as any Land, and this doth appeare by their owne Bookes, from 1605. which was the time their Charter was granted, till 1623. which was about the time the Wood-mongers procured that wicked monopolizing Decree in Star-chamber, by which the Woodmongers hath since acted, leaving all rules given them in their Charter, and sets up this Decree for a Law, and keeps much stir to have it maintained so, though to the ruine of men, women, and children, for time past, present, and to come.

Again, their Hall-books shew that these Car-rooms were sold, pawned, and mortgaged, to the knowledge of the company, and by their consent, so that if the company had then power to take them away, then their knowledge and consent to the selling, pawning, or mortgaging of them, might have been a fine way to cheate men of their money. This is another Argument to prove the Car-rooms hereditary, and proper goods and chattell, and lawfull to be bought and sold.

Another Reason is, that the Car-rooms hath ever been appraised as part of the goods of the deceased, and inventoried and filed in the Orphans court London, as it hath been already proved by the Records of that Court before the Committee of Parliament: Surely the Lord Major, and Court of Aldermen, would never have suffered car-rooms

roomes to have been filed in that Court, as the goods and chattels of the deceased, if they had not intended (they being the Land-lords of the said Roomes) they should have been goods and chattels. The Woodmongers themselves hath lately sold car-roomes for fifty pounds a peece: And this is another Reason why car-roomes should be taken and deemed as a chattell. &c, at the disposing of the Testator.

Woodmong-
ers against E-
quitie.
Woodmonger

Reply: It is the most (e) equallest thing in the world, that every man should possesse that which he doth purchase or what descends to him of right.

To the ruine of thousands of Families of the poor Carmen, for present and future.

Reply: There is not thousands of Families of Carmen; but they are a great body, and therefore the more fit to be a Corporation.

But the Woodmongers, by this part of their answer, would seeme to rob *Peter* to pay *Paul*; they would have the 400 Car-roomes in their disposing, because they would give them to deserving, honest men, who have served their Apprenticeships. So then, those who purchased their Roomes fourty yeares since, and served their Apprenticeships to, must be at the pleasure of the Woodmongers, whether they shall worke at their trade yea or no; but they would take these Roomes, and give them one to another, and to their servants and friends, at their pleasure, upon pretext they were deserving, honest Carmen, and they would have all those, whom they judge to be undeserving, to loose their Livelyhood, a very fine pretence.

That the Carmen must serve seven yeates Apprenticeship in LONDON for a Freedome, and not worke at his Trade without the favour of the Woodmongers, or till they will judge them to be deserving honest men; no doubt but the Lord Major and Court of Aldermen will look to this: For they are the Fathers of every Free-man, and ought to take care that every Free-man, who hath a Trade to work

on, may worke quietly without molestation, or putting from his Trade by any Company, or else what is a Freedome worth, or to what end doth any man serve an Apprenticeship?

Again, the Carmen were in a sad condition, if they should not enjoy their roomes but by favour of the Woodmongers, and till they did judge them deserving, they would be foully mistaken, as they were in the yeare 1647. when the ever honoured and renowned Army (under the command of that valiant and excellent piece of Virtue, the Lord Fairfax) came marching towards London for defence of the Parliament, the Woodmongers sent about to the Carmen, commanding their horses to help to draw out the Gunnes to the Workes, to charge the Army, and keep them out of the Citie, and because they refused, the Woodmongers threatened to cut out their Car-roomes.

Now you may see how well the Woodmongers would bestow the Car-roomes, if they had the disposal of them. This was no abetting of the treasonable ingagement. These men are fit to be Governors, are they not? that upon every opportunity will be ready to cut the Parliaments throats. Who doe you think they would give the Car-roomes to? Surely to such as themselves are, they should be accounted the deserving honest men, and not such as the Carmen, who now doe become petitioners for a Charter, who have been all of them active for the Parliament, and most of them out in their service, and ventured their lives. And those Carmen whom the Woodmongers say are the major part, are none but a parcell of malignants, that hold with them, to whom they would give the Car-roomes. And now in this time of Dispute they goe cunningly to worke, and seale Carts by night to these malignant party, because they should take the Wood-mongers parts against the Carmen in gaining their Charter.

The Woodmongers say likewise, That the Carmens desires are very unprofitable for the publick in making of swell deare, and the prices of all sorts of carriages treble to what they were wont.

C

Reply.

Reply. This is the Woodmongers fiction, not their meaning; for then they would have given some Reason for it: But it is very unprofitable for the Woodmongers: For if the Carmen have the Government of all the Carts, and the carriage of all the coales and wood, as they ought to have, and the keeping of meaters sacks to serve the City, then the Woodmongers would lose their ungodly gaine, and their opportunity to cheat both poore and Rich, with their short measure, and little sacks, as hath been at large proved before the Committee already, some, nay most of them want 6. bushels in a chaldron, which they ought to have; and therefore it were good for the City to looke after this.

The Woodmongers say, *It is dangerous for Merchants, if the Carmen be not under some Governours then themselves, in the safety of their goods committed to their trust.*

Reply. Here the Woodmongers would make the Merchants their friends, and make the World beleve that they are the cause of the Carmens preserving of Merchants goods, when in truth it is no such matter. If the Carmen take a load of Wines, or any other Commodity whatsoever, and if it be miscarried by him, or his neglect, the Company of Woodmongers are not, nor never were injoynd to make it good to the Merchant, but it lyes upon the Carmans score, and therefore this is a vain flash put out by the Woodmongers, to make the people beleve a lye.

The Woodmongers say, *Very unpeaceable the Carmen are to the people that passe the streets.*

Reply. The Town Carmen who now petition the Parliament for a Charter, are not the Parties unpeaceable in the streets, but the Woodmongers own Carmen, who drive their Carts with Coles, are them, who commonly make any disturbance in the streets, to the great danger of the people that travaile to and fro.

The Woodmongers say, *The Carmens desires are against*

their

their birth-right, in denying them to carry their own goods, with their own Carts and Servants.

Reply. It is not against their birth-right, because it is according to the Charter of LONDON, for that by the Charter and by the Law of the Land, no man may use two Trades. And farther, if the Woodmongers keep Carts and Servants to carry out their own goods, then the Ironmonger, Fish-monger, Costermonger, &c. may keep Servants and Carts to fetch their goods from the water side; and the Merchants may keep Carts to fetch and carry their goods, and then what will be become of the Car-men, who being many in number, and have served their Apprentiships for that Trade onely, and have no other way to live upon. Again, it is destructive to all Companies in LONDON, and to all Charters of Companies, for the Woodmongers to keepe Carts to carry out their own goods. By the same reason the Drapers may keep Cloathworkers in their house to dresse their own Cloath, then that Trade is spoiled; the Silke men, Servants to thraw their own Silke, the Apothecary give his own Physick, and so bring all distinct Trades to one, and so destroy all Government.

Now; let all men consider of what necessity it is to divide the Car-men from the Woodmongers, and give them a Charter by themselves, for the good of the Publique, and for the good of the poore men and their wives and children after them, that when they dye, the Woodmongers may not *Roman-like*, take away both their Roome and their company, and leave their wives and children to perish in the Streets, as many have done heretofore.

C 2

Postscript.



(12)
Pastscript.

THe Woodmongers foolishly in a paper, at the foot of the paper say, that Captaine Oxford, their Solicitor, did offer Mr. Sprat, the Solicitor for the Car-men, that the Woodmongers would consent to a disjunction from the Car-men, so that none may be compelled to goe from them, that are willing to stay with them, and that the Car-men pay a proportion of their debts, contracted for the use of the Parliament, and otherwise.

Reply : The Woodmongers doe well know, that the Committee did so order, that the Car-men should pay a proportion of such debts as the Company did contract to lend to the Parliament, but not otherwise, and the Car-men are willing, and offered to meet the Master and Wardens three times to come to account with them, but they refuse to meet, to give any account, for in truth the Car-men have paid their share of those debts long since, and the Company keep the money, and let the debts goe unpaid. Now to answer all other proposals at the foot of the said paper, is but to answer &c. according to his folly, but this will be a proper desire, that the Woodmongers doe consent to the Car-mens desires, and appear *gratis* in the Lord Majors Court at *Guild-Hall*, to answer a suit in Equitie, for the Revenue of the Company for this fourty yeares, and so let the Law decide the account, and there let the account be

be given, and never trouble the Parliament about that, and let them quietly restore to the right owners, to wit, poore widowes and children, and others, the fourescore and eight Car-rooms which they have taken away, by pretext of their decree in Star Chamber, and let them pay so much money back to the poore people, as the Rooms hath been worth since the taking of them, and then they will doe like men of conscience and honesty, or else let them appear *gratis* to so many suites at common Law, to be brought upon the Statute made the 21 yeare of King *James* against Monopolies, and then out of doubt, they will be glad to cut scores with the Car-men, as to the matter of Account.

FINIS.